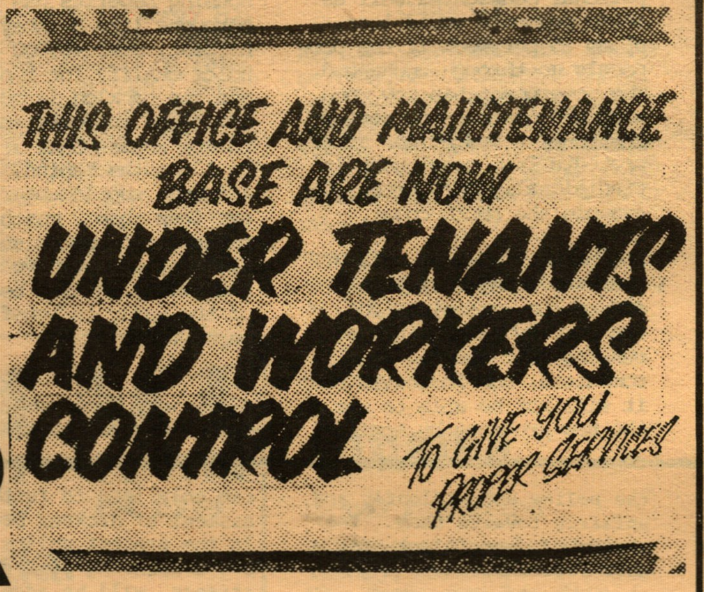
FEBRUARY 1984 NO. 98 15p

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's OTHER Newspaper

Occupation finds fiddles and deception

PEOPLE BACK BASE TAKE OVER



"What we have done is to put the Council's decentralisation policy into action." That was the comment of the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations after the occupation of a local estate maintenance base by the Council's own workforce, from the Direct Labour Organisation, and the tenants on the estate.

The maintenance base - for the St John's Area in Shoreditch - was occupied on the morning of 16 January because the tenants and workforce have together got fed up with the way in which resources are mishandled and misused by the Council. The occupiers argue that the Council is cheating tenants out of money that should rightly be spent on repairs, that sub-contractors are being used who are consistently overcharging for the work they do and that there is systematic corruption in at least part of the management of the Direct Labour Organisation.

At a packed public meeting on Sunday 29 January the local tenants overwhelmingly supported the occupation, raised a collection and appointed a committee to run the base on behalf of the tenants and workers.

The tenants are now voting with their feet, by turning up at the base and getting their repairs done. The Council said before the occupation that there were only 200 repair requests per week. But on the first day of occupation, the workers had 200 requests. The workforce has, the occupiers say, been deliberately starved of job tickets.

UNVIABLE

The Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations is arguing that the Council is trying to make the Direct Labour Organisation unviable and is systematically depriving it of funds. Half the income that the Council receives from rents is supposed to be spent on repairs and maintenance of its property. At least, that is what the Council claims it spends. But if this was so, then the rent income from the area around the St John's base would be enough to pay for materials and the wages of 118 operatives. In fact, it has just nine! Money that should be spent on tenants is in fact being used for other services being run by the Council.

Terry Robinson of the Federation told the public meeting: "What is happening to tenants here is happening systematically to tenants up and down the country. And it is Hackney Council's firm intention to cut repairs and maintenance still further." He told HPP later that a recent meeting of the Housing Committee considered a proposal from the Director of Finance that rents should be increased by an average £2 per week in April, and that a further £5 million should be cut from the housing maintenance budget. This paper was rejected by the committee, but will still be considered

Continued on page 8

The base on the St John's estate - taken over by tenants and workers acting together to give a better repairs service to the tenants.

Kwame Ture speaking during his 1983 tour of Britain.

TURE BAN AN INSULT

The ban on Kwame Ture from entering Britain is an insult to the black community claim the Hackney Black Peoples Association, which had invited him to give a series of lectures in Britain on Pan-Africanism. The speaking tour had been arranged to commemorate the centenary year of the Congress of Berlin, when the European powers divided Africa amongst themselves, and imposed artificial boundaries across the continent.

Kwame Ture, once known as Stokely Carmichael, is now a member of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party. Two other members of the Party, Turwanire Madla and Lou Hunt, arrived in Britain recently to take the place of the banned Ture, and will speak at the meetings he was to have addressed, including a rally at Islington Town Hall on Thursday 2 February. They talked to HPP at the Hackney Black Peoples Association office.

They are in Britain, they said, to build a revolutionary party here. The AAPRP stands for Pan-Africanism and scientific socialism and they want to see black people, wherever they were born, to see themselves as part of an African world. Organisation, they see as the key.

Kwame Ture was banned from entering Britain because his presence was said not to be "conducive to the public good". This is supposed to refer to a speech telling the Society of Black Lawyers to organise street riots in Brixton! When this was demonstrated to be false the Home Office changed their story: Ture had, they alleged, been advocating the throwing of hand grenades and his speeches were likely to incite riots.

The Home Secretary's decision to refuse Kwame Ture's visit was described by the HBPA as a "fascist act". It was a denial of the right of free speech they said. Furthermore, by holding him at London airport without letting him see a lawyer and members of Parliament, the Home Office was breaching its own racist Immigration Act.

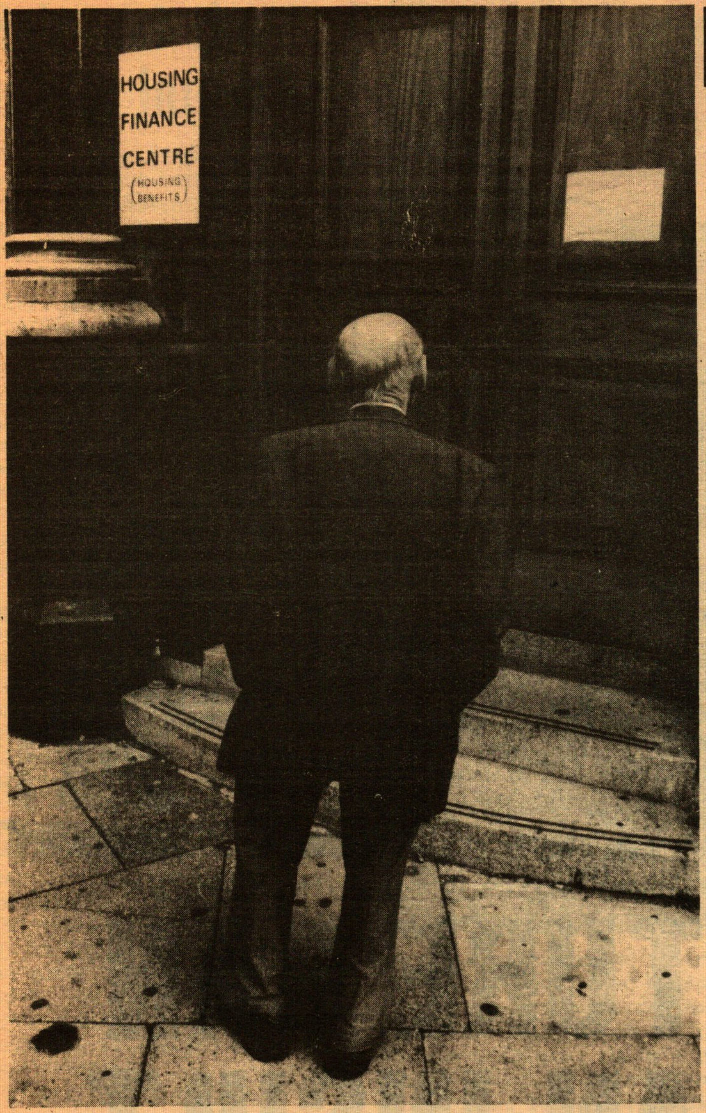
HBPA has appealed to all conscious black people, individuals and organisations to fight a united campaign to get the ban on Kwame Ture lifted. They are organising legal action against the Home Secretary to lift the ban. "Kwame Ture is a philosopher, a revolutionary and an intellectual giant. His presence in Britain would benefit the black community in our struggle against racial discrimiation, police violence and racist oppression," they said.

For further information, including the details of meetings where the AAPRP members are to speak, contact HBPA, 18 Stoke Newington Road, 254 1193.

Inside

SAVE ILEA . . . SAVE HACKNEY
pages 4 and 5
ST LEONARD'S: THE FINAL CHOP
page 3
DR JELLEY, PUB OF THE MONTH
page 6
PLUS
What's On . . . Petty Bureau . . . and more!

Housing benefit chaos



Robert Cowan

Everyone knows that the Housing Benefit scheme is a disaster. With one badly thought out initiative the Tory government has not only attacked the living standards of pensioners, the low paid and the unemployed, it has also plunged many local authorities, including Hackney, into chaos.

In the middle of January the government faced a minor back-bench rebellion when 3 MPs voted against proposals to cut Housing Benefit entitlements. According to Age Concern the average pensioner household would have been 80p per week worse off. People receiving an occupational pension as well as state payments could lose up to £5 per week if the proposals go through unchanged. The government has now gone away and promised to revise the benefit reductions after protests from pensioners in traditionally Tory areas, for example the south coast.

One benefit advisor told HPP that the changes will only add to the confusion. ICL, the company responsible for running most Housing Benefit computers, has indicated that it will not be able to set up the new programs by April.

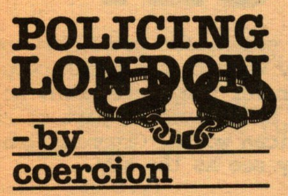
Hackney meanwhile has once again been in the spotlight. On the day of the parliamentary debate Thames Television interviewed councillor Brian Weller outside the Mare Street Housing Finance office. The system has been so bungled in Hackney that staff can only see 50 people a day. In order to be seen you must arrive before 9.30am and queue up to receive a ticket. Thames no doubt were hoping to film their interview against the backdrop of poverty-stricken Hackney residents, but it was an uncommonly quiet morning at the office...

As usual, the transfer of housing benefits has hit boroughs like Hackney the hardest. Over 40,000 households qualify for benefit and the backlog is so bad that rent increase and rebate assessments are up to 13 months behind. Although supplementary cases are less than 2 months behind, pensioners and other claimants have found themselves in debt because of the delay in benefit payments.

Along with representatives from voluntary groups, Councillor Weller and Councillor Tony Millwood are members of a group set up by the council to investigate the housing benefit shambles. In December the group called for an outside study to identify the areas where Hackney's benefit system was breaking down. Nick Raynsford of SHAC and Chris Dallison, an Enfield housing department officer will issue their interim report at the end of this month. It is expected to be critical of the council.

In defence of the Council, Tony Millwood explained: "We had no choice about the scheme, we had to accept it. The way it was done was appalling - it was forced on us with no pilot schemes, no extra staff and inadequate training. We just had to hire people off the street to cope."

The government has also used the scheme as an underhanded way of reducing the rate support grant. By reducing its direct contribution to administration costs, the government has effectively cut an additional £300,000 from Hackney's dwindling income. According to Tony Millwood, the Housing Benefit scheme has been an "object lesson in how not to reform the welfare state."



The Police Bill puts your freedom at risk •

The findings of the Policy Studies Institute report of November 1983, carried out on behalf of the Metropolitan Police confirm what HPP and others in Hackney have been saying for a long time. For instance:

The Metropolitan Police are racist, sexist, bend the rules are virtually unsupervised and a law unto themselves. A substantial number of police officers use excessive force.

One in ten Londoners have a complete lack of confidence in the Metropolitan Police. Half the city have serious doubts about police conduct. A third of young white people believe the police act violently and unfairly towards them. Two thirds of young black people also feel this.

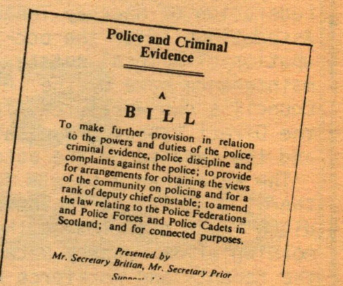
In Hackney we have seen the persistent use of dogs, stop and search, road blocks, harassment,unnecessary force, etc. Whenever the community has exposed these malpractices, for example the Knight family campaign and the protests that followed the death of Colin Roach, the police have attacked the protestors and sought to criminalise and discredit them.

The police bill that is being re-introduced by the government, by increasing the powers available to the police can only lead to further harassment of Hackney people. To the present police practice of "dispensing justice" on the streets, will be added the arbitrary meting out of justice in police stations.

In fact what we have already seen on our streets and in our homes is about to be extended AND legalised! Further confrontation seems likely.

When seen alongside the so far unsuccessful attempts to co-opt the community and its leaders into the whole policing process (eg. liason committees and neighbourhood watch) this bill can only be seen as an attempt to try and contain our struggles and further criminalise our resistance.

The local opposition to this bill is based at 50 Rectory Road, N16. Contact Hackney Campaign Against the Police Bill there or by phone on 254 9849.


Police and Criminal Evidence

A

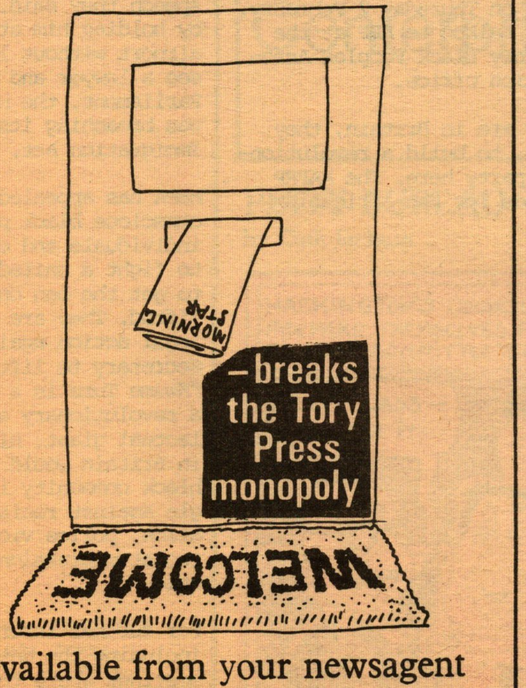
BILL

To make further provision in relation to the powers and duties of the police, criminal evidence, police discipline and complaints against the police; to provide for arrangements for obtaining the views of the community on policing and for a rank of deputy chief constable; to amend the law relating to the Police Federations and Police Forces and Police Cadets in Scotland; and for connected purposes.

Presented by
Mr. Secretary Brittan, Mr. Secretary Prior

ADVERTISEMENT

Read the Morning Star every day



- breaks the Tory Press monopoly

available from your newsagent

letters

HACKNEY YOUTH CND

HI THERE!

Just to inform you that a Hackney Youth CND group does exist. We've been active in many areas of campaign work and are growing very rapidly at the moment.

We produce a magazine, 11.57, have organised gigs and taken part in demonstrations. We are currently working on the second issue of 11.57 and are holding a jumble sale at Centerprise, 136-8 Kingsland High Street, on Saturday 4 February.

We hold meetings every other Thursday at Centerprise at 7.30pm-- the next meetings will be on 9 & 23 February. If you want to stop nuclear weapons join our struggle and get involved.

For further information contact Tim, Sam or Tom on 249 8213, 113a Stoke Newington Rd, N16.

SEE YOU SOON

CHATS PALACE

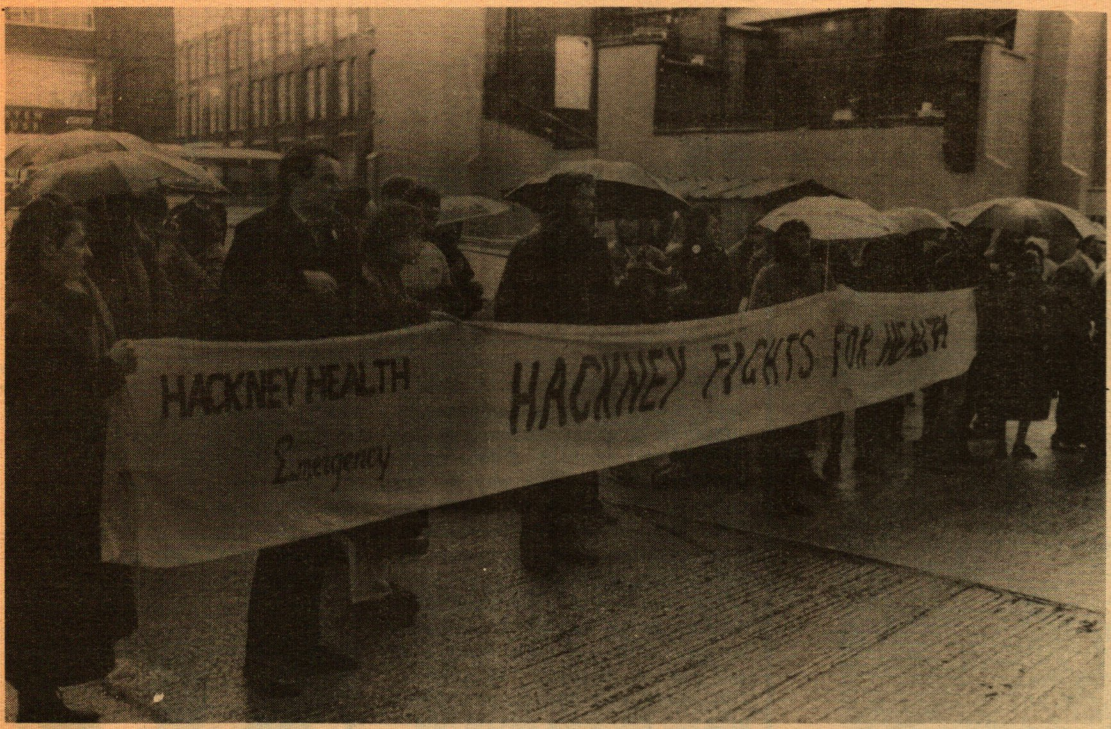
Chats Palace have asked HPP to print the following letter originally sent to Hackney Community Action:

This letter is the result of a meeting of Chats Palace staff, all of whom are members of ACTSS.

We felt it necessary to reappraise our previously individually held attitudes towards community policing. This was prompted by the controversy amongst the staff provoked by the photos of, and interviews with three Chats staff which appeared in the door-to-door newspaper produced by Hackney police concerning community policing.

It was felt by the meeting that these interviews had been ill considered in the light of the campaign in Hackney for police accountability. In future the dealings of Chats staff with community policing will be in accordance with the directives given by Hackney Community Action.

(NOTE: The Policy of HCA is that member groups should be encouraged to break all unnecessary links with the police until an independent public inquiry into Colin Roach and policing in Hackney has been carried out. The policy represents a guideline rather than a directive.)



Demonstrating in the rain to save St Leonards Hospital. Hackney Health Emergency organised a picket of the fateful meeting of the District Health Authority. (Pic: Paul Mattsson.)

ST LEONARDS: THE FINAL CHOP

Yet another step towards closure has been taken in the protracted battle over St. Leonard's hospital. On Monday 23 January the North East Thames Regional Health Authority voted, by 10 votes to 5, to close the hospital down. This followed the vote in December, taken by the City & Hackney Health Authority, of 12 to 8 in favour of closure.

The decision came as no great surprise. Hackney has no representation on the RHA at all, and when the DHA decision was taken, none of those who voted for closure had any connection with Hackney, let alone live here.

During the RHA meeting no opportunity was given to any of the angry protesters to explain how vital the hospital is to local residents. Demonstrators also tried persistently to discover where patients who now attend St Leonard's will be treated in the future, with no result. Repeated questions also failed to elicit where services were to be transferred to. Nor was there any answer to why a new consultative document, promised by Louis Freedman on BBC Radio 4, one which would be 'more accept able to the people of Hackney' had failed to materialise.

STATUTORY

Since the City and Hackney Community Health Council is strongly opposed to the closure, and has a statutory role in the taking of the decision, the final decision will be taken by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Norman Fowler. Hackney Health Emergency has already made representations to him, and has asked him to visit Hackney to see for himself the desperate need the borough has for St Leonard's.

ADVERTISEMENT

TROJAN TROJAN PRESS

NEW BIFF POSTERS
60p each, plus postage

10a BRADBURY STREET N16 8JN 01-249 5771

Turkey torture

Islington MP Jeremy Corbyn recently talked to a meeting of the Islington and Hackney Amnesty International group about a recent trip to Turkey.

While in the country Corbyn observed trials of proscribed organisations which, he said, amounted to a blatant miscarriage of justice. The death penalty is often used as a weapon of political repression in these trials; defendants such as peace campaigners, trade unionists and left-wing activists often face execution for their "crimes".

Last year Hackney councillors voted to twin with the Turkish town of Fatsa, where over 200 people were tried for promoting democratic municipal reforms. Several of the defendants are believed to have been sentenced to death.

The Islington and Hackney AI group are embarking on a long-term campaign against the use of the death penalty in Turkey. Amnesty believes that the death penalty is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and that it is a violation of the right to life. In Turkey, the death penalty is being increasingly called for for political offences. The military junta has even set up special courts to process death-penalty cases. Amnesty knows of 48 executions which have taken place since the coup in September 1980. Latest reports indicate that over 200 people are under sentence of death. The last execution before the coup took place in 1972.

In its campaign, the Islington and Hackney group will be mobilising the support of not only its own members, but local politicans, members of the local Turkish community and other sympathisers. They will be mounting displays in libraries and schools, collecting signatures for a petition.

If you would like to help in the campaign, contact Robin Alfred on 254 0526.

Free Form final act

Twelve workers have been sacked at Free Form as a result of the dispute reported on in the last issue of HPP. Their wages were stopped in December and when they were eventually paid they were told that they could expect no further payments.

These workers point to the absence of job contracts, some for workers of 8 years employment; lack of job security; no access to management and low wages/long hours. The dispute is complicated, with conflicting reports and insults being made.

Why did the workers lose their jobs? One view is that they were sacked for conspiring to set up an alternative structure. But now that they are sacked it seems almost inevitable that Free Form will split into two separate groups, with the majority setting up a new collective to be known temporarily as "Cultural Partnerships".

SHORT NEWS

Not for sale

Centerprise is not for sale, despite what the sign outside the building says.

For several months, estate agents have been trying to dispose of the freehold in Kingsland High Street. Hackney Council has been asked by Centerprise to look into the possibility of purchasing the freehold and leasing the building to Centerprise. The Council may also be giving Centerprise money to do badly needed repairs and redecoration.

Open day

Dalston Community Cencre is to open shortly. They would like all local groups to be involved in the planning of the opening. A planning meeting is to be held on Tue 14 February at 7.30pm at the community Centre which is at 62a Montague Rd, E8.

Bottle bank

You will soon be able to get old bottles recycled again, thanks to a glass salvage scheme being set up by the GLC and Hackney Council. Hackney had a bottle bank system running over a year ago, but it was suspended after only two weeks due to problems with the private contractor.

Now eight sites around the borough will be getting special bottle bank 'modules'. Now you can do your bit for resources on the planet by taking your old glass along.

Child risk

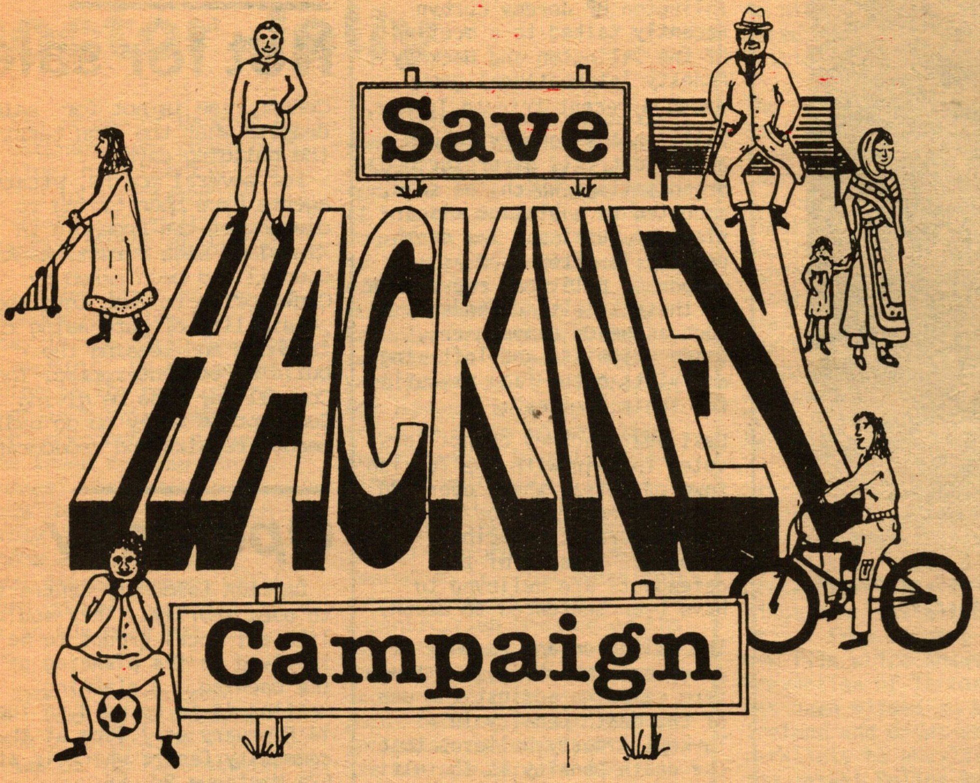
What action should be taken to help prevent child abuse in Hackney? A Social Services Working Group is looking at arrangements for taking action when a risk of children coming to harm is suspected or comes to light. If you can think of any practical improvements to the system contact Ted Holden, Room 27, 205 Morning Lane, E9.

New Nick

The new Stoke Newington police station is going to be four times larger than the present building. This has become clear from the final plans submitted recently to the Council. The police's architects are reluctant to say at this stage why the building is going to be so much bigger, merely commenting that they need improved training facilities, cells and women's lavatories. The station is to expand into what is at present a derelict site next door.

To add to the police's attempts to promote their accesibility to the public, they have decided to make the ground floor, except for the entrance, windowless. Anything more like a fortress built for an army of occupation would be hard to imagine. So much for community policing!

... Save it ... Hackney ... Save it ... GLC ... Save



Save Hackney campaign helped to co-ordinate a protest at the end of last month against the government's proposals to abolish the GLC and ILEA and to introduce rate cappingby community groups from all over London.

The groups - representing children, women, black and ethnic minority and other from different community sectors - were presenting statements of their objections to the Department of the Environment on 31 January. The Home Office already had copies, but since the DoE is responsible for the funding of community and voluntary projects, groups wanted to make their feelings well-known.

Petition wall

This protest is the latest in the Save Hackney campaign activities. Already this year they have taken part in the huge and successful rally of 24 January in protest against the plan to axe the GLC and ILEA, and ohter activities are being planned or in progress, such as the campaign to get letters into the Gazette to explain what the government is doing. The brick wall petition, started last year, continues: large pieces of card have been drawn up as a wall -- groups, individuals, anyone can sign a petition 'brick' and stick it on.

The campaign emphasis is on finding alternative ways of campaigning to save Hackney; everyone who takes part is expected to make their own contribution and use their own ideas and imagination to get something going. There are no organisers, only co-ordinators.

Rio event

Beat the Blues is a joint venture with the Rio and Centerprise. An evening of film, discussion, slides, speakers, readings and poetry, it will focus on life in Hackney. Meantime, Mike Leigh's film shot mainly in Hackney (St. Mary's estate) will be shown and Paul Harrison, author of Inside the Inner City, a book about contemporary Hackney will be present to discuss his work. The evening will be on Thursday 16 February, 7.30 at the Rio.

Message from the heart

Next on the list is St Valentine's day. A huge card is to be presented to Patrick Jenkin. The messages it will carry are thoughts like 'Have a heart Jenkin - Save Hackney' and 'Don't break our hearts in Hackney any more' or 'Roses are red, violets are blue, Our kids have problems, caused mainly by you' from the handicapped children's group in Hackney. Any photos, verses, messages you or your groups can dream up on the defend London theme would be very welcome.

Hundreds of balloons, bearing the message 'Have a heart, Maggie' are to be released in a women and children's event.

People's court

As we all know, the council is taking Patrick Jenkin to court, but how successful this will prove remains to be seen. Save Hackney campaign has no confidence that the court will have Hackney people's interests at heart, so it is organising a 'people's court' where groups and individuals can come and give evidence. Anyone is welcome.

April 1 is the next day for diaries. Surely a day which combines April fool's day and mothers' day must suggest something to grab the media's attention?

Whoever you are, if you are concerned at what is happening to Hackney at the government's hands, contact Sue or Carole on 729 5536 to take part in these or any other activities which would help.

Under review

Hackney Council has set up a number of "Service Review Boards"to look into the running of its various departments. Tenants and others with their own horror story and thoughts on council effficency might be tempted to provide a few suggestions here. But why is the council reviewing its services NOW, shouldn't they be doing this continuously in order to get things right?

The council claims that the review is to assist in setting budgets and the rate level, as well as to develop its case for increased government resources. But there exists the suspicion that it's designed to save/cut spending - a figure of 5% is roumered. This fear is heightened as the Service Review Boards' meetings are being hurried through and are not open to the public.

Will cuts be made? Will they be limited to a freezing of vacant posts? The council's public relations office told HPP that the council was opposed to any cuts, but had to be careful about its budget. Vague references to looking at how much recruitment could be budgeted for and possible redeployment of people as a way of getting around any recruitment problems were not particularly reassuring, but as the council says, much hinges on how much money we get from the government.

We all know that Hackney people are getting a bum deal, the problem is that the government seems intent on making things worse. No wonder the council is encouraging people to join the campaign to fight the government plans. But have the people of Hackney got the political will and economic power necessary to save and improve local services?

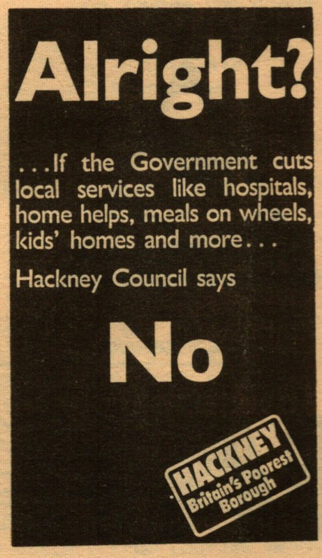
SUNPOWER
83 Blackstock Road,
N4
Alternative bookshop, wholefoods and herbs.
Natural toiletries, crafts, gifts and cards.
A workers co-operative.
Open
Mon–Sat 10am–6pm

Bottom of the league

If the point of advertising is to get your product noticed, then the Council has certainly succeeded with its present "Alright?" and "Bum Deal" campaign. But if the point is to get your message across, in a witty, informative and effective way, then it has failed miserably.

The campaign is nothing but illiterate, poorly designed and badly executed. Consider the series of posters using the slogan "Alright?". For a start, the correct English is "All right". A series of posters like these are only really effective if their message is short and sharp. Hackney's is muddled both in design and content.

The bum deal poster is nothing less than dreadful. If it didn't have the word "bum" on it, which has upset the people who write to the Hackney Gazette (and that's another argument against it), then it would be inexplicable what the drawings represented. They are supposed, presumably, to be pairs of buttocks balanced on stalks. They look like children's drawings of sheep or the pathetic attempts at caricature that some pub landlords who fancy themselves as artists, for no good reason, will occasionally pin up in their bars. If the Council wanted to use the slogan - and perhaps it could have done so effectively - then it could have commissioned a good



cartoonist to do a funny drawing of a few genuine bums. After all, they are a pretty hilarious sight, seen en masse.

Finally the common design theme used on all these posters, and everywhere else apparently, is the logo: "Hackney: Britain's poorest borough". This dubious title is being dragged into everything with the monotonous regularity of a TV advert for relocation of factories in Milton Keynes or Wales. It was presumably chosen in order to guilt trip the Department of the Environment and the Government into handing over more cash for the borough. It is most unlikely to succeed. It will probably make them more determined to hang on to their cash.

If the Council wants a lesson in how to run a political advertising campaign then it need look no further than the GLC. Their recent advertising has reached a level of tasteful design and succinct message which is highly unusual. They have engaged an outside agency - probably at vast expense -

but have produced eye-catching, clever and powerful adverts. Hackney will answer that it does not have the funds available to run a public campaign of this size. In that case, it would probably have done better to have saved its money entirely, and not bothered with the bum deal it has dealt itself-alright?

it . . . ILEA . . . Save it . . . Hackney . . . Save it . . .

The long march begins

Photo: Paul Mattsson

Save GLC & ILEA marchers outside County Hall - but where is the campaign heading?

The "Day of Action" against the Tory Government's plans for the GLC/ILEA was a great success. In the freezing cold of 24th January many parents and local government employees took part in a march and rally in central London. Yet following the strike, the Save ILEA Campaign remains at present undecided as to how to build on this support.

Very nearly every school in Hackney was closed on the "Day of Action. From 8am, teachers were leafletting along all the main traffic routes of the Borough as well as at bus terminuses and railway stations. The ILEA Divisional Office's Salary Staff went into work but they must have had nothing to do - because Securicor decided not to cross the picket line formed up out side. The Hackney contingent on the subsequent march from Hyde Park to Jubilee Gardens was joined by one of the local ILEA inspectors.

There has been some difference of opinion about this march and its organisation. Should it have just started a and finished in Central London? Or would there have been more impact on Londoners - who after all will be the biggest sufferers if the present ILEA/GLC is abolished - had the route taken the march through more residential areas?

Save ILEA CAMPAIGN

Opportunities, say the critics, also thrown away at the final rally when limp speeches from "sympathetic" members of the Tory & SDP parties crowded out those from genuine activists in a pathetic effort to maintain a broad political front. But then, the "Day of Action" was clearly meant to be a CND type mass demonstration. It was a decision which emanated from the headquarters of the main organisations involved. What this meant, say some, was that directives were handed down from top with very little real effort to inform and/or consult the grass roots. The links with ILEA were similarly conducted at this livel and strictly on an official basis, constraining the taking of prolonged and effective direct action. It was County Hall which, after all, sent round a circular urging Heads to keep their schools open on 24 January.

Where does the Save ILEA Campaign go from here? There are some local activists who suggest that what is needed now is local strikes in schools organised by committees of teachers and parents. These strikes would be designed to last over an indefinite period. On the other hand, would a link-up with the Save Hackney Campaign be more fruitful, taking in as it does the wider issues of urban deprivation? Strikes may be possible for teachers and other ILEA employees but might not their extensive occurance antagonise the wider community - the very people whose support the Campaign is trying to enlist - the parents who depend on their kids receiving some sort of an education?

Tories Snap At Rates

You've heard of "Rate capping". Don't understand it? Nothing to do with me? HPP has been looking into the background - why it is being introduced, how it will work, how it will affect Hackney and why many of the governments own supporters are against it.

Rate limits

The Rate capping bill is designed to enable the government to impose a permanent upper limit on the local rate rises. Why is this considered necessary?

The starting point is the government's policy of keeping down public spending. Local authority spending accounts for about a fifth of all public spending and has been exceeding the treasury targets by nearly £1,000 million a year. To tackle this 'problem' Heseltine introduced a penalty formula to withhold central government grant from councils at proportionately higher amounts the more they spend, forcing the burden towards local people.

How successful this has been is a matter of debate. Robin Pauley writing in "The Financial Times" believes that the system proved "Largely incapable of holding down spending ...Low spenders tended to spend up towards the bench marks, while many high spenders ignored the system and passed the increasingly hefty penalties onto the rate payers, blaming the government..."

However, "Socialist Worker" argues that "Such rate rises, which fall heavily on ordinary workers, proved an electoral liability. And so council after council started to implement the cuts demanded by the Tories." In short we have the present situation of high rates and cuts in services.

To get around the problem, the government's new bill would, starting in 1985-6 identify up to 20 areas believed to be overspending. Hackney is almost certain to be included. A limit will then be set which will allow Hackney council to raise just enough money from the rates so that, with normal government grants, they will be able to spend exactly at the set expenditure level, and no more. If Hackney Council decides to tell the government where to get off the law will be brought in and the rate payers would not be obliged to pay any extra money required to maintain local services.

The plans to remove local council's 400 year old right to determine their own rate levels has found support - but also a lot of opposition, and not only from the "High spending" Labour inner city areas. The commons vote of 17 January led to 13 conservative MP's voting against the bill and a further 20 abstaining, while the business and commercial community is split over over the plans.

Why is this? Well for the majority of councils not capped in the initial onslaught the scheme is likely to actually increase their rates. If the rates in Hackney etc. are forced down and we qualify for more government aid, this is likely to come at the expense of the non-capped councils who will have to raise their rates. What then?

Draconian

Heseltine's grant penalty scheme started by attacking 8 Labour councils in 1980-1, now it affects 153 councils, many of them Tory. Is this a sign of how things will go with rate capping? The result of what Edward Heath described as "Draconian" powers could be the reduction of local government to no more than the local administration of central instructions. Combined with the proposal to abolish the metropolitan councils (GLC), the government would then be free to further cut public expenditure by dismantling social services and amenities.

OUTLOOK BLEAK

The increases other councils expect to have to make pale besides the prospects facing Hackney. These are indeed devastating. It is impossible at this stage to forecast what the outcome will be but looking at the figures before the council for fixing this year's rate, the outlook is bleak.

For a start, this year's rate support grant, announced in December, was even worse than was feared. and so therefore are the penalties. The choice facing the council ranges between a horrendous rate rise of 65% or massive cuts in services and jobs.

Planned council expenditure for the year is £100,846,000. The government target is £78,986,000 leaving a shortfall of £21,860,000.

If the present level of services is maintained (without any improvement) the rates must rise 65%.

If on the other hand the council keeps to the government's target and holds the rate increase down to 9%, 1660 jobs will have to go.

Services in this case would suffer badly, possibly to the point of breakdown. The provision of residential homes for the elderly and home support services would be cut, meaning more old people would have to go into care - a much more costly option. The same would apply to the physically and mentally handicapped. In the planning field, the Department of the Environment has already criticised the council for falling behind with its enforcement cases: something which can only get worse. Hackney has been urged, under the Inner City and Partnership schemes, to put resources into generating new businesses: this would become totally impossible.

These services are not luxuries, or irresponsible overspending, they are all statutory requirements. (This is why the council is taking Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to court: his guidance for 1984-5 has not taken account of local needs. The limits he has imposed are unattainable, and if they were attainable, could only be achieved by cutting these statutory services.) If government is prepared to take action which will, inevitably, mean such devastation this year, there seems no grounds for hoping that reason will reign next year.

Reviews

The amazing Doctor Jelly

The life of one of Hackney's most extraordinary characters, Dr Jelley, has recently been recorded in a Centerprise publication, Dr Jelley - the threepenny doctor of Hackney.

Dr Jelley first set up his unorthodox practice in Hackney in the early years of this century. He dispensed medecine to the poor of the borough in a brisk, even abrupt, no-nonsense manner. He was famed for one-minute diagnoses, his accessibility and his cheap prices, which probably annoyed the more orthodox and respectable medical establishment, which charged up to a guinea a visit in the more well-off areas.

Even after so many years - and he is thought to have died in 1946 - vivid memories of him have stayed with local people. He was renowned for his fiery temper - it was easy to stir him to a fight - and he had frequent clashes with the law.- Whatever he did, whether leaving his horse and trap unattended, driving through the streets like a madman, or shooting his neighbour's hens, the outcome was frequently a lawsuit. And all this quite apart from any litigation connected with his medical career.

People's attitudes to him seem to have been very ambivalent. The booklet contains many reminiscences of his cures and the high regard he was held in because of them. He understood the effects that poor diet and women's ehalth had on the Hackney families and the remedies he proposed were both practical and sensible. Set against this was the scorn he seems to have been regarded with by many; his windows were always being broken, and the women he took on trips to Southend in his disintegrating motor jeered at it. But many were prepared to accept his eccentricities because of the benefits he brought; indeed, though he appears to have grown quite rich at one point because he had so many patients, the importance of his contribution to the health of Hackney people should not be underestimated.

The collection of reminiscences, articles and newspaper reports of Dr Jelley's court appearances put together by Centerprise and the Inner City Theatre Company makes both for interesting reading and a valuable contribution to the borough's history. It can be obtained from Centreprise for 80p, elsewhere £1.

POLICE BILL EVENT

Hackney Campaign against the Police Bill is staging an all day event on Saturday 25 February at Chat's Palace to highlight the danger posed by the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

The activities begin at 2pm. A photographic exhibition will illustrate recent increases and abuses of police power and focus on black resistance to state racism. Liz and Trish, the exhibition organisers, visited HPP to borrow photographs from our files. They are basing the show on local campaigns such as those that followed the deaths of Colin Roach and Michael Ferreria.

Starting at 2.45pm will be a programme of two films. They are Blacks Britannica- the classic study of the black experience in Britain since the last war and It's a Free country-- a new film which shows how the Prevention of Terrorism Act has been misued in Northern Ireland and draws ominous parallels to provisions in the latest Police Bill. A discussion will follow.

Later on there will be a cabaret by the TARA arts group and music by local band See You in Vegas. Entrance for the event will be around £1, with concessions.

If you want to help with the event, or find out more about the campaign ring 254 9849.

THE RIO

107 Kingsland High Street, London E8

Tel: 249 2722/254 6677

24 HOUR MOVIE

Hackney's Rio Cinema is embarking at noon on Saturday 4th February on a 24 hour non-stop film journey from Rio to Rio: from the Rio in England to Rio in Brazil.

Starting with THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY set in London's docklands and ending with the classic musical FLYING DOWN TO RIO featuring the first apperance together of Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers, viewers will travel in film through Europe across the Atlantic and into South America.

Although DANTON is being treated as a separate performance, all the other films will be open to the public at the normal Rio price of £2. With a dozen films on offer this makes the trip exceptional value. People will be able to come and go when they wish - no one will be forced to stay for the full 24 hours! Between each of the features there will be a variety of cartoons and other bits and pieces which can either be watched or used as a convienient time to go and seek refreshments.

For the Rio the event is taking the form of a sponsored film watch to raise extra income to help maintain financial viability and their many projects. A number of staff are being sponsored by friends and supporters of the cinema and will raise money according to the number of hours they watch. If you have not already sponsored someone, just ask at the cinema.

24 HOURS OF NON-STOP FILMS. RIO CINEMA, MIDDAY SAT 4 TO MIDDAY SUN 5 FEBRUARY.

Sat 4	
12.00	THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY
14.00	THE BLUE LAMP
15.30	BRIGHTON ROCK
17.00	GENEVIEVE
18.00	SUMMER HOLIDAY
20.00	DANTON
23.00	*Humphrey Bogart All-nighter, starting with* CASABLANCA
Sun 5	
00.45	KEY LARGO
02.30	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT
04.15	THEY DRIVE BY NIGHT
06.00	THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA
08.15	OUR MAN IN HAVANA
10.30	FLYING DOWN TO RIO

THINGS THAT GROW BUMPS IN THE NIGHT

"Things that grow bumps in the night" turned out to be as revolting as HPP expected (see last issue) and as enjoyable as we've all come to expect of the Chats Palace Christmas show.

The night I went was packed and it was hard to judge where the audience ended and the performers started. Even I ended up throwing pieces of mouldy cake at Ronald D'Eath, well at least that's what he said it was after it hit him, and he should know. Me being a mere mortal and not too hot on the habits of the underworld was glad to know what it was that I had just rid my self of.

Lesley Allan of Chats explained later that there had been a full house most of the time, and financially the show had broken even. Even most of the props and costumes were sold off at the end which helped. Apparantly there are a few costumes left which did not reach their reserve price, so if you missed the auction and want a souvenier of the show it might be worth asking if there's still anything going.

It's hard to single out any one in particular, but congratulations must go to the many people involved in the show, all of whom were volunteers rather than professional actors; their commitment resulted in much enjoyment all round.

Chats Christmas show: Gormless and Princess Anthrax. Picture: Ian Priddey.

Pub of the Month

Laid back in Lower Clapton

This month the PoM team visited two real ale pubs in the quiet back streets of Homerton and Lower Clapton.

The Chesham Arms (15 Mehetable Road, E9) is a free house tucked in between the Homerton House school, St John's Church and the railway viaduct. The pub has a white pebbledash exterior and apart from that it hardly stands out from the terraced that surround it.

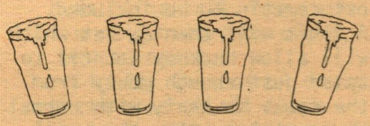
The Chesham is almost like a rural village pub inside. It is well lit and spacious with a hub-bub of conversation. The clientele is mixed and seems to include teachers, junior doctors from the Homerton hospital and council workers. In one corner of the saloon bar a woman was reading the Guardian.

The bar has an impressive range of beers. According to our hazy count there were six keg brews and nine real ales, including Fullers London Pride, Sam Smiths, Wethereds, Truman's best and Abbot ale. We didn't try them all, but sampled a mixture of HPP favourites, unknown strangers and long-lost acquaintances.

London Pride is a frequent guest in our column. At the Chesham it was well served and made a pleasant start to the evening. Crouchvale bitter, a little known Essex beer, was a fine drink, but not brilliant. Wethereds was also deemed a good pint:

"What does it taste of?"
"Well, it's like Wethereds."
"...in what way?"
"I like Wethereds."

As we worked our way through the selection, the beers began to lose their distinctive features. Truman's best was "bland"..."flat"..."pasty" and "gooey"; Abbot non-descript and not on form. Our palates became jaded. At this point one of us tried Noggin keg bitter, from Charles Wells, a respected Bedford brewery. It tasted like a soap flake and tonic water cocktail.



To give our brains and tongues a break we walked nortwards to the Priory Tavern, 11 Elderfield Road, just off Powerscroft Road, E9.

The pub is notable for an intimate saloon bar with 1930s decor. Some of the guests looked decidedly trendy. The public bar boasted comfortable padded seats, a juke box, pool table and dart board. It may, or may not, be a sign of the recession easing in Lower Clapton, but the pub was well attended on a Wednesday evening.

The beer however was disappointing. Two real ales were on offer: Bass, which tasted one-dimensional and blah, and Springfield bitter which was even more insipid. It tasted like toothpaste.

We then discussed the biochemistry of alcohol absorbtion and tested our theories at last orders with more satisfying beers: Tenants Extra lager and Worthington White Shield. The latter, a full bodied pale ale, is one of the few "live" beers still available. You have to pour it very carefully to avoid disturbing the sediment (which results in a cloudy, but nutrious mess in your glass).

Dedicated pub research is a tiring business, so by 11 the Pub of the Month team was ready to walk(?) home. The Priory and the Chesham are both pleasant locals, and the effects of our research were countered by a couple of glasses of water and a strong dose of vitamin B12.

What pubs do you think we should review in future months? Please send your ideas or comments to: Pub of the Month, Hackney People's Press, c/o 10a Bradbury Street, London N16.

WHAT'S ON

Theatre

HALF MOON
213 Mile End Road, E1
790 4000

Man Friday The Robinson Crusoe story seen through the eyes of Man Friday, taking a swipe at British imperialism. Mon-Sat at 8pm, all February. Tickets £3, £4.

THEATRE ROYAL
Gerry Raffles Square, E15
534 0310

El Dorado A new play, set in Guyana. A newly-graduated doctor, Gregory, returns from Englan to confront his grand-mother and the whole family takes part in a struggle over property, love and loyalty. 26 January - 25 February. 8pm. Tickets £1 - £5

Meetings

DALSTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

112 Greenwood Road, E8.
254 9661

Dalston Children's Centre is a community centre based around the needs of children and those who look after them, mainly women. Below we give details of just a few events from their Feb/Mar Programme, for more details either phone or call in between*10am and 6pm.

GIRLS' NIGHTS:
Girls aged 6 to 14 every Mon from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Young Women aged 14 to 18 on Tues, again 6.30 to 8.30pm. Safe transport home. Details from Pamela on 241 2388.

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH:
This group will start again in February. Abby Godden is the tutor and can be contacted on 278 4444 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:
Thursday March 8th from 7.30pm; Dancing/Books/Food/Creche/Video Women 50p, Children Free; Food Women £1, Children 25p.

Music

CHESTNUTS FOLK CLUB

The Chestnut Tree Pub (Upstairs Room) Lea Bridge Road, E17. Situated just before the Whipps Cross roundabout on the 55 bus route.

Feb 5: FLOWERS AND FROLICS plus DICK MILES
Feb 12: DEREK BRIMSTONE plus DAVE AND DAMIEN
Feb 19: DAB HAND plus JOHN SPIRES
Feb 26: ADRIAN MAY plus POPULAR WOBBLIES
Mar 4: JIMMY WOODLAND
Mar 11: MAGGIE HOLLAND AND CHRIS COE

All the above are worth seeing, but Maggie Holland and Chris Coe are particularly recommended. They've recently been playing as half of The English Country Blues Band,which should give some guide as to their style.

In addition to the regular sunday night sessions starting at 7.30pm, there is a friday night dance (Ceilidh) on Feb 24th with MELONS FOR ECSTASY, starting at 8pm.

Cinema

HACKNEY FILM SOCIETY

Films every Thursday at the library, Homerton High Street, E9. Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Members and guests only, for details contact Vivienne Griffiths, The Secretary, Hackney Film Society, 35 Mehetable Rd, E9.

Feb 9: THE WATCHMAKER OF ST. PAUL
Feb 16: INTRUDER IN THE DUST
Feb 23: MORGAN...A SUITABLE CASE FOR TREATMENT
Mar 1: THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
Mar 8: GUMSHOE
Mar 16: GREGORY'S GIRL

Other events

Hackney Borough Council is putting on its 19th annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the Town Hall, Mare St, from 25 February to 9 March.

Every taste will be catered for at the exhibition which this year has been extended for two weeks to include exhibits from children, adults and club members who live, work or study in Hackney.

If you want to enter a painting, sculpture, carving, tapestry or any other exhibit in the show pick up a form from local baths, libraries, sports centres or information bureaux. Entries must be delivered to the Town Hall between 10am and 7.30pm on Thursday and Friday the 16th & 17th of February or from 10am to 4pm on Saturday the 18th.

For further information send a self addressed envelope to: Arts and Entertainments, Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT or phone Liz Owen on 739 7600 ext 488.

CHATS PALACE

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
42 BROOKSBY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

February Calendar

Important: As Chats Palace has a club licence all users of the building must be members or their guests. See "Chats Palace Club" overleaf

Wed 8.30pm	1	Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro plus guest performers. All welcome. Free.
Thu 9pm	2	The Island Drama Workshop present "Leonard Figg for Melanie Morris — True!". In the bar. Free.
Fri 7.30pm	3	*Pyramid Arts Development present two new reggae bands, Response and Travellers, plus Sirena Sound System. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	4	Chats Palace Music Hall with Deirdre Dee, Rosy Gibb, John Derrick and the Original Eastside Chatsworth Stompers. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	5	Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with Ruthie Smith's Toot Sweet. Free.
Wed 8.30pm	8	Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro plus surprises. Come along and join in. Free.
Thur 2pm	9	Chats Palace Senior Citizens Club present "The Sunny Siders", songs and laughter. Free.
Fri 7.30pm	10	Chats Palace Youth Club Valentine Band + Disco Night. 75p
Sat 8pm	11	Chats Palace in conjunction with Tropic Music Enterprise present the amazing Amazulu, dub and dance. £3/£1.50 unwaged. (see Programme News)
Sun Noon	12	Lunchtime Jazz with The Rae James Quintet. Free.
Tue 8pm	14	Press Night and Preview of Inner City Theatre Company's latest show It's My Party (And I'll Cry If I Want To). £1. (see Programme News)
Wed 8.30pm	15	Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro plus guest performers. Free.
Thu 8.30pm	16	Rock n' Roll Dance Class with Tish Francis. £1.50/75p unwaged. (see Programme News)
Fri 7pm	17	*Dalston Children's Centre benefit. With The Touch, disco plus cabaret. £3/£1.50 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	18	Chats Palace St. Valentine's Bop. Rock n'Roll band plus disco. £2/£1 unwaged. (see Programme News)
Sun Noon	19	Lunchtime Jazz with Jazz Standards. Free.
Wed 8.30pm	22	Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro and guests. Free.
Fri 8pm	24	Chats Palace presents a Leeds Bands Night. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 2pm-11pm	25	Hackney Campaign Against the Police Bill present an all day event, with speakers, films, music, theatre and much more. £1 half day/£2 full day. (see Programme News)
Sun Noon	26	Lunchtime Jazz in the bar. To be anounced. Free.
Wed 8.30pm	29	Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro and guest performers. Free.

*Indicates outside hirer

ADVERTISEMENT

BON•TON•ROULET
PEGASUS
109 Green Lanes N16. 226-5930.

★ FEBRUARY BANDSTAND ★

MONDAY 6th MONDAY 20th	MINISTRY OF SOUND	£1.00
MONDAY 27th	MODEL TRAINS	£1.00
TUESDAY 7th	NATIONAL PASTIME	£1.00
TUESDAY 14th	CLUB IT - VALENTINES NIGHT PARTY	£1.00
TUESDAY 21st	JACK PINE QUINTETTE (Jazz, Be-Bop & Swing)	£1.00
TUESDAY 28th	THE WORD	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 1/15/29th	REACTORS	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 8th/22nd	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	£1.00
THURSDAY 2nd	DANCE HALL STYLE	£1.50
THURSDAY 9th	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
THURSDAY 16th	DANCE HALL STYLE	£1.50
THURSDAY 23rd	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
FRIDAY 3rd	★ JULIAN BAHULA'S JAZZ AFRIKA ★	£2.00
FRIDAY 10/17/24th	JUICE ON THE LOOSE	£2.00
SATURDAYS	BIG CHIEF featuring ART THEMEN	£1.50
SUNDAY 5th	IVORY COASTERS	£1.50
SUNDAY 12th	CHEVALIER BROTHERS	£2.00
SUNDAY 19th	★ RUBY TURNER ★	£2.00
SUNDAY 26th	CAYENNE	£2.00
SUNDAY 5th/26th LUNCHTIME JAZZ 12.30 – 2pm	JACK PINE QUINTETTE	50p

Doors open at 8.30 and most bands want to start by 9.15 - please give the musicians your support by coming early. Reduced admission most nights for claimants/students producing UB40/student union card. No reduction for latecomers.

music every night
Manor House Tube. 141 - 171 Buses.

ADVERTISEMENTS

THE RIO CINEMA
107 Kingsland High St, E8
Tel: 254 6677

FEBRUARY

HOW TO GET THERE:
BY RAIL: The cinema is 50 yards from the new DALSTON KINGSLAND Station (BR Cross Town Link Line) there are regular and frequent connections with the tube at Highbury and Islington (Victoria Line) and Stratford (Central Line) OR BR North London Line to DALSTON JUNCTION
BY BUS: Nos 67, 76, 149, 236, 243 stop outside. Nos 22, 30, 38, 48, 277 stop at Dalston Junction.
BY TUBE: Highbury and Islington then bus or BR Cross Town Link Line, Liverpool Street then bus Stratford then BR Cross Town Link Line

FEATURES (FRIDAYS TO WEDNESDAYS)

FRI 3 SAT 4 SUN 5 MON 6 TUE 7 WED 8
GERARD DEPARDIEU in a film by ANDRZEJ WAJDA
DANTON
Year Two of the French Revolution: Georges Danton is struggling to end the Terror and bring peace. But first he must defeat Robespierre...
8.00 Daily.

FRI 10 SAT 11 SUN 12 MON 13 TUE 14 WED 15
GORKY PARK
5.30 (Sat Sun only) + 8.00 daily.

FRI 17 SAT 18 SUN 19 MON 20 TUE 21 WED 22
Fanny Ardant Jean-Louis Trintignant
FINALLY, SUNDAY!
Vivement Dimanche!
A Film by François Truffaut
5.30 (Sat Sun only) + 8.00 Daily.
plus ONE DAY IN HACKNEY See over for details

FRI 24 SAT 25 SUN 26 MON 27 TUE 28 WED 29
UNDER FIRE (15)
5.15 (Sat Sun only) + 8.00 Daily.
plus ONE DAY IN HACKNEY See over for details
NICK NOLTE . GENE HACKMAN . JOANNA CASSIDY
JEAN-LOUIS TRINTIGNANT · RICHARD MASUR

THURSDAYS + MATINEES + SPECIAL EVENTS

SUN 29 JAN (MATINEE)
GIVE US THIS DAY (GB 1982) 65 mins. 3.00
Ragged Trousered Philanthropists; film about R. Tressell
+ WINSTANLEY (GB 1975) 96 mins. dir Kevin Brownlow. 4.15

THUR 2 (MATINEE)
GREAT EXPECTATIONS (GB 1946) 118 mins. 2.00
with John Mills, Jean Simmons, Alec Guiness.
All tickets ½ price

THUR 2 (EVENING)
A FREE COUNTRY (GB 1983) 30 mins. 7.30
+ THE CAUSE OF IRELAND (GB 1983) 104 mins 8.00
New film about the British in Ireland. See over.

SAT 4 at 12.00 midday through to SUN 5 at midday
24 HOURS OF NON-STOP FILMS: The Rio's Sponsored Film Watch.
All films open to public;non-stop films;24 hrs for £2 !!!
---See over for details---

SUN 5 (MATINEE)
THREE DAYS OF THE CONDOR (US 1975) 118 mins. 3.00
+ THEY SHOOT HORSES DON'T THEY (US 1969) 129 mins. 5.15
A Sidney Pollack double bill; the first looking at corruption in the CIA, whilst 'They Shoot Horses' has Jane Fonda trying to win a few dollars in a 6 day dance marathon during the Depression. Specially for those who have just endured the Rio's film marathon!

THUR 9 (MATINEE)
JANE EYRE (US 1943) 96 mins. 2.00
All tickets ½ price

THUR 9 (EVENING)
NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE (US 1978) 109 mins. 6.45
+ THE BLUES BROTHERS (US 1980) 133 mins. 8.45

SUNDAY 12 at 2.00pm
THE RIO'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for anyone who would like to be involved in the running of the Rio. See over for membership form and further details.

THUR 16 (MATINEE)
WEST SIDE STORY (US 1961) 155 mins. 2.00
The Romeo and Juliet story in New York's docklands.

THUR 16 (EVENING)
"BEAT THE BLUES" with Centerprise, the Rio, and the SAVE HACKNEY CAMPAIGN! An evening of film, speakers and discussion around Paul Harrison's book INSIDE THE INNER CITY and Mike Leigh's film MEANTIME. Both Paul Harrison and Mike Leigh will be present. See over for details. 7.30

SUN 19 (MATINEE)
THE INFORMER (US 1935) 91 mins. 2.00
John Ford's brilliant film of the betrayal of an IRA leader.
+ ASCENDENCY (GB 1982) 85 mins. 3.50
Festival-winning film about life amidst the Troubles.

THUR 23 (MATINEE)
THE SECRET OF NIMH (US 1982) 82 mins. + cartoons. 2.00
Wonderful animal story of an independent woman mouse!
-HALF TERM SPECIAL-

THUR 23 (EVENING)
THE FIRST OF THE WOMEN'S FILM PROGRAMME
MAEVE (GB 1981) 110 mins. 6.45
+ THE GERMAN SISTERS (W. Germany 1981) 106 min 8.45
-See over for details-

SUN 26 (MATINEE)
THE BILL DOUGLAS TRILOGY
MY CHILDHOOD (GB 1972) 48 mins 2.00
MY AIN FOLK (GB 1973) 55 mins 3.00
MY WAY HOME (GB 1977) 72 mins 4.05

THUR 1 MARCH (MORNING)
SAVE HACKNEY'S PLAYGROUPS 10.30
Cartoons and slide show, in conjunction with the SAVE HACKNEY CAMPAIGN. See over for details. Admission free

THUR 1 MARCH (MATINEE)
THE ATOMIC CAFE (US 1982) 89 mins. 2.00
All tickets ½ price

THUR 1 MARCH (EVENING)
THE ATOMIC CAFE (US 1982) 89 mins. 7.00
+ RETURN ENGAGEMENT (US 1983) 89 mins. 8.45
Fascinating film with Timothy Leary & G Gordon Liddy

All listings on this page are free. If you are organising an event or meeting then send us details and we will publicise it for you. The copy date for the March issue is Friday 24th February.

If you want to advertise on this page then our rates are very cheap: write to us for full details and rate card.

Help put the people into HPP!

Have you ever wondered how this paper got into your hands? You haven't! Well, you should have... By the miracle of modern science and the latest in microcircuitry, our highly trained reporting staff merely have to sit themselves in front of an ordinary keyboard and think out their stories. The computers wizz into action, put everything into impeccable English, lay out the typed copy perfectly accurately and rush everything by facsimile transmission to the printers...

If you believe that then you'll believe anything and you're just the sort of person who we want to come along and help us produce the next issue of this paper. For ABSOLUTELY NO REWARD WHATSOEVER, other than a warm inner glow, you can bring your skills to the attention of thousands. Writing, editing, drawing, taking photographs, design and layout, selling and distribution: if you can do any of these then you're the woman or man we need! And if you can't do any of these come and see us anyway, learn new skills and amaze your friends!

We will be holding an open meeting on

Tuesday 21 February

at 8 pm in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, when we will be discussing what goes into the next issue. Come along then, or ring one of us first to find out more about HPP:

Sue 254 7191
Ian 985 7513
John 533 2933

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for twelve issue subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N.16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS. Please add a donation if you can afford it!

Subscription only ______

Donation of _____ *enclosed*

NAME ______________

ADDRESS ______________

____

____

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Telephone 01-806 9211 (evenings and weekends).

Photo: Paul Mattsson

On the anniversary of Colin Roach's death from a shotgun blast in the foyer of Stoke Newington Police Station the Roach Family Support Committee held a vigil outside the Station to coincide exactly with the time around 11 pm when Colin died. Mr and Mrs Roach, Colin's parents, seen above, placed a single carnation on the floor of the foyer, and a letter to Margaret Thatcher, calling once more for a public enquiry, was read out. The Roach Family Support Committee is continuing with its call to all Hackney community groups to break all links with the police until the public enquiry is granted.

Continued from page 1.

People back base work-in

by the Council's most important committee, Policy and Resources, where it has a good chance of being adopted.

Alan Russell, a DLO worker and UCATT shop steward who helped lead the occupation, told the public meeting about about the kind of charges which had been made by the private contractors to the Council. Papers had been found when the workforce and tenants went on to occupy the District office at Bowling Green Walk which showed that invoices had been submitted for £180 for fitting a Yale lock and £140 for fitting a window catch. Invoices for jobs that had been done bore no relation to the schedule of rates which contractors are supposed to stick to. He explained that a firm which was listed by the Council as being only a glazing supplier was also doing carpentry, and that it was impossible to find out anything about the firm from Companies House.

When the workforce moved into Bowling Green Walk, he said, the manager had removed a large stack of papers before they could inspect them. Some papers that had been found had been sent on to Brian Sedgemore MP, and he was forwarding them to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The meeting was also told that work done by the private contractors often had to be redone by the DLO. Alan Russell said that the Council had no comeback on contractors who did a poor job, but the DLO had a disciplinary procedure and a worker could be sacked for doing a bad job.

For many years the Federation has been fighting to get an accountable and efficient DLO, working in the interests of the tenants. There is no shortage of maintenance work for the DLO, yet often workers are left idle. And the Council then claims that there is a backlog of work, so that they have to bring incontractors, instead of offering its own workforce overtime or taking on more workers. It is even rumoured that an instruction has been given that only emergency repairs are now to be undertaken.

Already the occupation has received support from tenants both inside and outside London. A little bit of democracy, of people's control, has been grabbed back from the bureaucrats in Shoreditch. A small beginning, but it could be the start of something big.

ADVERTISEMENT

THE ISLINGTON GUTTER PRESS

Islington's independent newspaper

THE ISLINGTON GUTTER PRESS
Local news-events-reviews-rumours-politics-scandal
Monthly.

On sale from Centerprise

THE RIO 107 Kingsland High St, E8

136, Kingsland High Street, Hackney E8.

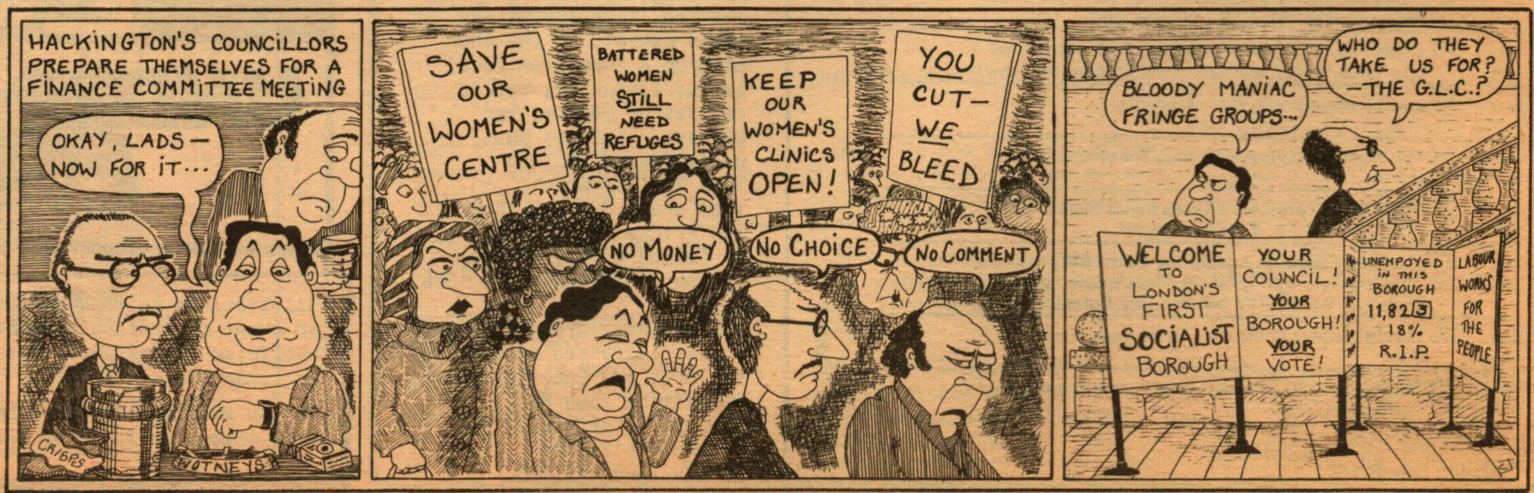
ADVERTISEMENT

aphra videos

HAS YOUR GROUP EVER CONSIDERED MAKING A VIDEO? MAYBE APHRA CAN HELP!

Aphra Video co-operative will make videos for community groups and special interest groups for a negotiable fee on a sliding scale. We will also cover meetings, conferences, etc, and make promotional videos for community arts groups. Phone for more information!

GLC funded

245a Coldharbour Lane
London SW9 8RR
01-733 7207 274 7700

PETTY BUREAU
by Cath Jackson